AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 1, wherein~~ A support for a material to be fired for a ceramic dental prosthesis (10), having a support plate (12) which is dimensionally stable when heat is applied and having a plurality of passages (14) arranged perpendicularly relative to a support plate surface, the support comprising:

a bundle (16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4) having a plurality of pins (18, 19) which in an undeformed state extend parallel with respect to each other is introducible into each of the passages (14) for placing the dental prosthesis (10) to be fired on the pins (18, 19), and the bundle (16.1) of the pins inserted into each of the passages (14) [[is]] being fixable one of to the support plate (12) and on a respective passage (14) by a temperature-resistant adhesive (20.1, 20.2).

3. (Original) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 2, wherein on an end the bundle (16.2) of the pins one of is maintained together by a high temperature-resistant connecting piece (24) and is welded together.

4. (Original) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 3, wherein the pins of the bundle (16.2) of the pins are welded together at one end of the pins.

5. (Original) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 4, wherein the connecting piece (24) at least one of at least partially encloses an end of the bundle (16.2) of the pins and is fixed in place on the end of the bundle (16.2) of the pins by a temperature-resistant adhesive (25).

6. (Original) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 5, wherein a tip of each one of the pins (18) is supportively contactable with the dental prosthesis (10) to be fired at a molded inner surface (26) facing away from an occlusal surface (24), and the dental prosthesis (10) is seated at a distance from the support plate (12) by the pins (18).

7. (Original) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 6, wherein for a supportive contact with the dental prosthesis (10) to be fired, the pins (18, 19) of the bundle (16.1, 16.2) are one of bendable outside of the passages (14) in spatial directions (x, y, z) with respect to each other and fanned open.

8. (Original) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 7, wherein the pins (18, 19) are of one of tantalum, a high temperature-resistant metal alloy, and a high temperature-resistant glass fiber material or ceramic material.

9. (Original) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 8, wherein each of the pins (18, 19) has a diameter between 0.2 mm and 0.7 mm.

10. (Original) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 9, wherein at least one of the support plate (12) and the connecting piece (24) is of one of a high temperature-resistant metallic material, a sinter metal, an aluminum oxide ceramic material and a temperature and dimensionally stable ceramic material.

11. (Original) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 10, wherein 50 to 150 of the passages (14) per cm^2 are arranged in the support plate (12), which extend parallel with respect to each other and perpendicular with respect to the support plate surface.

12. (Original) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 11, wherein the passages (14) respectively have one of a circular, a square and a hexagonal cross-sectional face in a honeycomb structure.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 1, wherein~~ A support for a material to be fired for a ceramic dental prosthesis (10), having a support plate (12) which is dimensionally stable when heat is applied and having a plurality of passages (14) arranged perpendicularly relative to a support plate surface, the support comprising:

a bundle (16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4) having a plurality of pins (18, 19) which in an undeformed state extend parallel with respect to each other is introducible into each of the passages (14) for placing the dental prosthesis (10) to be fired on the pins (18, 19), and on an end the bundle (16.2) of the pins being one of [[is]] maintained together by a high temperature-resistant connecting piece (24) and [[is]] welded together.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 1, wherein~~ A support for a material to be fired for a ceramic dental prosthesis (10), having a support plate (12) which is dimensionally stable when heat is applied and having a plurality of passages (14) arranged perpendicularly relative to a support plate surface, the support comprising:

a bundle (16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4) having a plurality of pins (18, 19) which in an undeformed state extend parallel with respect to each other is introducible into each of the passages (14) for placing the dental prosthesis (10) to be fired on the pins (18, 19), and the pins of the bundle (16.2) of the pins [[are]] welded together at one end of the pins.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 1, wherein~~ A support for a material to be fired for a ceramic dental prosthesis (10), having a support plate (12) which is dimensionally stable when heat is applied and having a plurality of passages (14) arranged perpendicularly relative to a support plate surface, the support comprising:

a bundle (16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4) having a plurality of pins (18, 19) which in an undeformed state extend parallel with respect to each other is introducible into each of the passages (14) for placing the dental prosthesis (10) to be fired on the pins (18, 19), and a connecting piece (24) at least one of at least partially ~~encloses~~ enclosing an end of the bundle (16.2) of the pins and [[is]] being fixed in place on the end of the bundle (16.2) of the pins by a temperature-resistant adhesive (25).

16. (Currently Amended) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim [[1]] 15, wherein a tip of each one of the pins (18) is supportively contactable with the dental prosthesis (10) to be fired at a molded inner surface (26) facing away from an occlusal surface (24), and the dental prosthesis (10) is seated at a distance from the support plate (12) by the pins (18).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 1, wherein~~ A support for a material to be fired for a ceramic dental prosthesis (10), having a support plate (12) which is dimensionally stable when heat is applied and having a plurality of passages (14) arranged perpendicularly relative to a support plate surface, the support comprising:

a bundle (16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4) having a plurality of pins (18, 19) which in an undeformed state extend parallel with respect to each other is introducible into each of the passages (14) for placing the dental prosthesis (10) to be fired on the pins (18, 19), and for a supportive contact with the dental prosthesis (10) to be fired, the pins (18, 19) of the bundle (16.1, 16.2) [[are]] being one of bendable outside of the passages (14) in spatial directions (x, y, z) with respect to each other and fanned open.

18. (Currently Amended) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim [[1]] 17, wherein the pins (18, 19) are of one of tantalum, a high temperature-resistant metal alloy, and a high temperature-resistant glass fiber material or ceramic material.

19. (Currently Amended) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim [[1]] 17, wherein each of the pins (18, 19) has a diameter between 0.2 mm and 0.7 mm.

20. (Currently Amended) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim [[1]] 17, wherein at least one of the support plate (12) and a connecting piece (24) is of one of a high temperature-resistant metallic material, a sinter metal, an aluminum oxide ceramic material and a temperature and dimensionally stable ceramic material.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim 1, wherein~~ A support for a material to be fired for a ceramic dental prosthesis (10), having a support plate (12) which is dimensionally stable when heat is applied and having a plurality of passages (14) arranged perpendicularly relative to a support plate surface, the support comprising:

a bundle (16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4) having a plurality of pins (18, 19) which in an undeformed state extend parallel with respect to each other is introducible into each of the passages (14) for placing the dental prosthesis (10) to be fired on the pins (18, 19), and 50 to 150 of the passages (14) per cm^2 [[are]] being arranged in the support plate (12), which extend parallel with respect to each other and perpendicular with respect to the support plate surface.

22. (Currently Amended) The support for the material to be fired in accordance with claim [[1]] 21, wherein the passages (14) respectively have one of a circular, a square and a hexagonal cross-sectional face in a honeycomb structure.